

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for managing inventory of a stock item
2 over a number of convenient time periods, comprising:
3 receiving an updated demand forecast and updating
4 projected forecast data;
5 determining for a given time period:
6 projected inventory level using said projected
7 forecast data, supplier commitment data, and prior periods'
8 projected inventory levels; and
9 days of supply of inventory using said projected
10 inventory level for a current time period and forecast data
11 for subsequent periods; and
12 if said days of supply is out of a predetermined range
13 for a given time period, taking corrective action.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said given time
2 period is established by at least one of:
3 a supplier; and
4 a manufacturer.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining for
2 a given time period said projected inventory level includes
3 providing a search criteria including a part number
4 identifying said stock item.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said search criteria
2 includes a part name identifying said stock item.

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1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said search criteria
2 includes a part description identifying said stock item.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said number of
2 convenient time periods includes a selected horizon.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said number of
2 convenient time periods is measured in increments of time,
3 said increments including one of:
4 days;
5 weeks; and
6 months.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said projected
2 forecast data includes a quantity of said stock item
3 expected to be consumed during at least one of said number
4 of convenient time periods.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said supplier
2 commitment data includes a quantity of said stock item a
3 supplier commits to provide for a manufacturer.

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1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining
2 for a given time period said projected inventory level
3 includes performing a calculation comprising:

4
$$PI(n) = PI(n-1) - F(n-1) + C(n-1);$$

5 wherein further:

6 PI represents a projected inventory value;

7 n represents a variable, said variable representing a
8 time period;

9 F represents a projected forecast value; and

10 C represents a supplier commitment value.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 range for said projected days of supply is established by
3 at least one of:

4 a manufacturer; and

5 a supplier.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 range for said projected days of supply is a single number.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said days of
2 supply is measured in time increments including one of:

3
4 days;

5 weeks; and

6 months.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said corrective
2 action includes modifying said supplier commitment data.
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1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said modifying
2 said supplier commitment data includes delaying a shipment.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said modifying
2 said supplier commitment data includes increasing said
3 supplier commitment data.

1 17. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for managing inventory of a stock
3 item over a number of convenient time periods, the storage
4 medium including instructions for causing a computer to
5 implement a method, comprising:

6 receiving an updated demand forecast and updating
7 projected forecast data;

8 determining for a given time period:

9 projected inventory level using said projected
10 forecast data, supplier commitment data, and prior periods'
11 projected inventory levels; and

12 days of supply of inventory using said projected
13 inventory level for a current time period and forecast data
14 for subsequent periods; and

15 if said days of supply is out of a predetermined range
16 for a given time period, taking corrective action.

1 18. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said given
2 time period is established by at least one of:
3 a supplier; and
4 a manufacturer.

1 19. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said
2 determining for a given time period said projected
3 inventory level includes providing a search criteria
4 including a part number identifying said stock item.

1 20. The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said
2 search criteria includes a part name identifying said stock
3 item.

1 21. The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said
2 search criteria includes a part description identifying
3 said stock item.

1 22. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said
2 number of convenient time periods includes a selected
3 horizon.
4

1 27. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said
2 predetermined range for said projected days of supply is
3 established by at least one of:

4 a manufacturer; and
5 a supplier.

1 28. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said
2 predetermined range for said projected days of supply is a
3 single number.

1 29. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said days
2 of supply is measured in time increments including one of:

3
4 days;
5 weeks; and
6 months.

1 30. The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said
2 corrective action includes modifying said supplier
3 commitment data.

1 31. The storage medium of claim 30, wherein said
2 modifying said supplier commitment data includes delaying a
3 shipment.

1 32. The storage medium of claim 30, wherein said
2 modifying said supplier commitment data includes increasing
3 said supplier commitment data.